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৩৬ সংস্করণ।

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**THE CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST.**

PEKIN, 29 (Times).—A representative of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank Syndicate accompanied the Chinese Secretary to the German Legation at a meeting of the Tsung-li-Yamen yesterday. No reasonable doubt exists that, unless speedy opposition is offered Germany will secure the reversion of the concession for a trunk line from Tien-tsin to Chin-kiang. The terms are favourable, and the line, which will be parallel to the Pekin-Hankow line, will be of great strategic and industrial importance, traversing the richest portion of the Yang-tse Valley.

Hong Kong, July 26 (Reuter).—The Taotai Sheng has memorialised the Tsung-li-Yamen in favour of the projected construction of a railway between Kau-lung and Canton by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Company, representing a British syndicate. The granting of the concession is impeded by strong protests made by the French Minister in Pekin.

Brussels, July 29.—The Journal de Bruxelles declares that the report that a Belgian syndicate had sold to the Russo-Chinese Bank a railway concession in China is altogether incorrect.

Shanghai, July 31 (Times).—Mr. Curzon's statement, as telegraphed by Reuter's Agency, regarding the Luhan (Pekin-Hankow) Railway and the assurances given to Sir Claude MacDonald in Pekin, is impossible to sustain in the face of the text of the loan contract. By that agreement of which I have seen an authentic Chinese version, Russia virtually challenges England's rights in the Yang-tse Valley. Article to makes the entire railway the security for the loan, in which

Russia has the predominant interest. Of this she makes no secret, and this fact has become doubly significant since M. Pavloff's veto against a mortgage of the Kinchu line as security for a British bank loan. The Russian bank now practically becomes owner and controller of the Hankow Railway, the bonds being lodged with that bank in Paris. An additional article appoints as arbitrator the Minister representing in Pekin the country where the bonds are issued. Well-informed Chinese state that Sheng signed the contract under pressure exercised by Li Hung Chang. This latest achievement of Russian diplomacy is a direct menace to British interests in Central China.

The Chinese authorities have brought to the notice of the French authorities a formal agreement, which they state was negotiated between the Tsung-li-Yamen and the French Minister in 1878, in settlement of the Ning-po Guild affair of 1874. The terms included a money indemnity for the Chinese killed on that occasion, and an undertaking that the Guild should be allowed to remain in undisturbed possession of the land in perpetuity.

Shanghai, July 31 (Dailyst).—It is reported that Sir C. MacDonald has protested against the Luhan Railway contract, on the grounds that it hands Central China over to Russian control. The contract is still unratified. The Russo-Chinese Bank is withholding the payment of the first instalment.

Reuter's Agency is informed that a letter has been received from Dr. Yung Wing, the concessionaire of the Tien-tsin Chin-kiang line, expressing his anxiety for the scheme to be financed in London, and asking the terms on which the capital could be furnished. Telegraphic communications are in progress with Pekin on the subject, with a view to securing this line, with its terminus on the Yang-tse, to British capitalists. The terms suggested are confidential, but they are stated to be of such a nature as possibly to induce the Tsung-li-Yamen to extend the time within which the capital for this undertaking has to be found.

Shanghai,



THE  
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, AUGUST 25, 1898.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

WHAT is the object of this municipal reform of Sir Alexander Mackenzie?

Answer: Its object is to transfer the control of the Calcutta Municipality, from the hands of the representatives to those of the Government.

But Mr. Risley says that the reform will only strengthen the cause of self-government.

They are mere words. This is what the Times says:—

The inquiries in Bombay and Calcutta have led to legislative measures that imply a partial return from the self-governing to the centralized official model. In these polite phrases, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal wraps up a change which will vest a stronger control in the hands of the Government, and which will substitute a directly responsible executive for the less directly responsible Corporation.

What led Sir A. Mackenzie to disturb the arrangement, which means the withdrawal of a valued privilege, enjoyed by the people for the last quarter of a century?

His motives are not known. It is believed, Sir A. Mackenzie is only carrying out a trust of Sir A. Eden, his former superior and guru, who entertained a bitter feeling against Sir R. Temple and his great gift, the elective system.

What were the means adopted by Sir A. Mackenzie to carry out his idea?

He first sought to secure the support of the big rate-payers. Some agreed to commit suicide for his sake; others declined. He, therefore, divided the rate-payers into two classes, the important and the unimportant. The two or three who agreed to cut their own throats to give him pleasure, he called "important" and those who refused, he called "unimportant." This done, he reported to the Secretary of State that the "important" men have supported his scheme, and, on this ground, he prayed for his Lordship's sanction.

And what did Lord George Hamilton do?

His Lordship felt that as India was a savage and foreign country, the people had no right to the representative system and he accorded the necessary sanction.

Did the Secretary of State mean the withdrawal of the representative system by his sanction?

His Lordship possibly did not think it worth his while to go through the one thousand sections of the Bill. To do Lord George Hamilton justice, he gave, only Sir A. Mackenzie, permission to take a few more Commissioners from the European community.

And what kind of support the "important" men, alluded to above, promised to Sir Alexander Mackenzie?

They said, "If your presence is pleased, so we are pleased. It pleases Presence to cut our throats, and the process pleases us vastly. Only direct us what will be most pleasing to Presence; for we are willing (a) to cut our own throats with a razor, (b) to throw ourselves from the Ocheloney Monument, or (c) jump into the bosom of the Ganges; nay, we are willing even to hang ourselves, if necessary."

What next?

Well, Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Bill contains one thousand sections that meant time to the framers. And when Sir Alexander Mackenzie had made all preparation to forge his thunder-bolt, the doctors urged him to fly home!

Why should the doctors act in this manner?

Possibly they were bribed by the rate-payers.

But is not the British Indian Association going to support the so-called reform?

The Association possibly, but not its members.

What do you mean?

What I mean is this that the members of the Association, as far as has been ascertained, are individually bitterly opposed to the great wrong that the change contemplates. But the Association may yet send a petition supporting the principles of the Bill.

But how can the Association support the principles of the Bill, when the members are opposed to the measure?

Well, what can they do? The utmost that they can do, under such circumstances, is to tear their hairs and beat their breasts.

That they are already doing. But will not this be a national humiliation if even a couple of Bengalees are found to support such a movement?

Call it rather a sacrifice. For, they will, by this support, sacrifice themselves and their country.

HOW THE FISHES WERE  
LIBERATED.

ADMINISTRATORS in India want a free hand in everything. Are not their motives excellent? Do they not belong to the noblest and ablest service in the world? Why then should they not have absolute freedom, and be compelled to obey meaningless forms and other restrictions, imposed upon their movements? These absurd restrictions prevent these excellent administrators from doing all this good they can, in the shortest time possible.

The people, on the other hand, complain that the administrators, in their zeal for reform, proceed with railway speed, and introduce measures which sometimes bring

untold miseries upon those, who are subjected to their rule. We shall presently furnish an instance.

But before we do, let us strengthen our position by referring to the railway speed with which vaccination was introduced in this country. It was voted that vaccination was better than inoculation. Not that both had been subjected to a critical examination and the former found better after the trial; but vaccination was in vogue in Europe and inoculation in India, and that was enough to force the innovation upon the helpless country. Now we see that vaccination is condemned in England. In India, a good many people hold the opinion that inoculation is better than vaccination. At least, the Government, before introducing the innovation, ought to have first seen how inoculation was carried on here and with what result.

Sir Charles Elliott oftentimes excited wonder in this country by his eccentricities. He formed hasty opinions and clung to them with tenacity. He had an idea that sanitation was urgently needed in this country. In this view, of course, he was correct. But he ignored the fact altogether that, that science was yet in its infancy, and, therefore, the reforms, which it advocated, ought to be used with caution, especially when they meant ruin to the people.

Jute plants have to be kept steeped in water for several days to separate the fibres from the stalk. But it was thought that the process pollutes water, and it was stopped by a Magistrate in his zeal for sanitation. Of course, the restriction was not enforced. But the idea, if carried out, would mean ruin to millions. Sir Charles Elliott had no idea that such ruinous experiments, for, they are only experiments, should not be carried out in haste.

We shall now proceed with our story, how the fishes were liberated.

It is a well-known fact that fishes run up the rivers from the sea during the rainy season for a special purpose, and then come down when the rains have subsided. It is also well known that if meat is the chief article of food in Europe, fish is the chief article of food in Bengal. Fish industry is, therefore, a very important one in this country. Fishes are largely caught on the two occasions named above, that is to say, when they go up and when they come down. Fishermen, on the banks of smaller rivers, had a contrivance for the purpose of catching these moving fishes.

Mats made of bamboo, were laid across the river and openings left for the boats to pass. These contrivances are called *bandhas*. Here fishes were caught, when going up or coming down.Sir Charles Elliott removed these *bandhas* on sanitary considerations, and in the interests of river-borne trade. His idea was that they obstructed the free course of water and boats. How he came to know of the existence of these innocent things, is not known. It is believed, however, that a criminal case brought them to his notice. The sailing of a steamer wanted fish, free of a few fishermen who had a *bandhal* of their own. They refused, and there was a row. The steamer brought a case on the ground that these obstructions prevented the free ingress and egress of his boat. And these *bandhas* were doomed.These *bandhas* again brought to the notice of the authorities another contrivance of fishermen to catch fish. They kept heaps of faggots in rivers where there was deep water.

These gave the fishes a very good place of resort to make their nest and hide themselves. But it was contended that these faggots polluted water, and the fishermen were prohibited from having recourse to them.

Now, as we said that fishes go up during the rainy season. These *bandhas* kept them confined in the river. When they were removed by Government orders, the fishes went up during the rains and fled to the sea when the rains had subsided. There was no obstacle to keep them in the rivers.

And thus now-a-days, the rivers do not contain fishes as before.

In the same manner, the faggots induced the fishes to stay in the river. They too are not permitted to be placed in the rivers. And thus, in many parts of Bengal, the inhabitants have been deprived of one of their chief diets.

As for these *bandhas* and faggots doing any sanitary mischief, that is simply ridiculous. They were no innovations; they had been used from time immemorial. The people objected to this reform and demanded inquiries; but that was refused. Sir Charles Elliott was certain of his ground. For, was he not Sir Charles Elliott? The mischief done by this "reform," is simply incalculable. Will the Government of Sir J. Woodburn please institute an inquiry into the matter and remove a serious source of evil to the people?THE STORY AS TOLD BY  
MR. CHAMBERS.

It is quite true, Mr. Chambers is a Radical; but he is also an Englishman and an English gentleman. He may be mistaken in his opinions, but it would be preposterous to accuse him of having mis-stated the facts for the purpose of humiliating his own country. One of his statements is that the Anglo-Indians in Bombay are heartily ashamed of the proceedings which were inaugurated by the Government at their instigation on the appearance of the plague. This goes to prove that Mr. Chambers is

not the only Englishman in Bombay who holds the opinion set forth by him in his speech. It has been made abundantly clear that the Bombay Government itself is now in a penitent mood. The mild way in which replies were given to the questions put to it at the last meeting of the Council, shows it.

It all happened in this way. Lord Sandhurst is a man of natural good temper. He was goaded to take energetic actions; and he now sees, with every one in the world, that he was impelled to commit many serious blunders. Thus, the employment of British soldiers on plague duty led to the murder of Mr. Rand and Mr. Ayerst. The murders of the British Officials resulted in the press prosecution, the deportation of the Natu brothers, the quartering of the punitive police, &c. &c. The editor of *Modavritta*, an old man with physical deformities, was consigned in jail, and released only the other day. The remembrance of all these facts will cling to Lord Sandhurst to the end of his days. And what would not his Lordship give to undo and forget all these doings of his?

Now to the story of Mr. Chambers. It is, of course, not new to any Indian; but, this is the first time that a connected and strictly correct account of some of the doings of the Bombay authorities was given by an Englishman to an appreciative British audience, doings which convulsed India last year in a manner never witnessed before.

And what a story it is! India is governed by the ablest and best of officers. Despotically ruled as India is, its despotism is better than the constitutionalism of other free countries. India is better governed than even England itself. All these have been asserted over and over again. But the story shows how the enlightened rulers, in panic and passion, convulsed India for no fault of the people, but because they had committed blunders, one after the other! The story establishes the despotism, but it also shows that the abundant powers, possessed by the Government, are sometimes used in an absolutely reckless manner.

Mr. Chambers justly remarked that it was to the plague regulations and the way in which they were enforced that we owe all our troubles. Plague had appeared in past and modern times. But it is doubtful, if ever an affected people had suffered so frightfully, not from the fell disease but from the so-called remedial measures adopted to stop it as they did during the past one and half year.

Mr. Chambers had a personal knowledge of the plague operations in Bombay. He was, therefore, able to speak on the subject with the authority of an observant eye-witness. As every one here knows, things went on smoothly enough so long as the management was in the hands of General Gatacre, because he personally saw all things with his own eyes, and he never allowed any one to do the more delicate work, such as house-searching and so forth, unless he was certain that those he thus employed were competent and sympathetic. The General was accustomed to go with soldiers; but, says Mr. Chambers, he would not allow them to enter the dwellings of the people. He took them along with him simply to use them against the bad characters of the town if they resisted his authority. General Gatacre would give the children sweets; he would reason with and gain the confidence of the parents; and he employed the educated to explain matters to the ignorant. As a natural result, everything went on well. What a deal of mischief might have been averted if the example of the good General were followed everywhere. But if he won over the children by giving them sweets, others used their guns against them!

Well, General Gatacre left Bombay with the disappearance of the first outbreak of the plague, and a different policy was adopted, when the city was again visited by the pestilence. "The Bombay Plague Committee," after the retirement of General Gatacre, says Mr. Chambers, "was a failure; nothing seemed to go right with them." He describes how, instead of permitting the people to reside in temporary huts on the outskirts of Bombay, the Committee "confined them to the quarters in which cases had occurred, and the unfortunates were maddened." The situation, it seems, was something like putting some human beings in the cage of a tiger which had already killed some of them, the survivors expecting the same dismal fate every moment!

Mr. Chambers described some incidents to give his audience a faint idea of the terrible sufferings to which people had been subjected. It had happened on several occasions, said he, that a man, "on returning from his day's work, found his household goods on the pavement, the white-washers in charge of his home, and his wife and children taken away to a hospital or segregation camp, the exact locality of which was not known to any one. And the grief-stricken man had to search the town—possibly for two days—before he could find his wife and little ones." Now, could a more horrible position than this for a human being, endowed with some human feelings, be conceived?

Here is an every day occurrence to which Mr. Chambers referred. If a person wished to leave Bombay he met with the greatest difficulty in getting a pass, and when he got one, he generally was quarantined for ten days at his journey's end.

"There was no sedition," continued the speaker. "It was merely a protest—an angry and ignorant, but still a natural protest against an unusual and an autocratic procedure." Of course, the leaders of the Indian society knew the existence of this boiling discontent, but "they were afraid to speak because the Government, armed with the new law of sedition, was merciless." Yes, if the masses of the people were in a state of frenzy, the Government was also not in an amiable mood, and even the most loyal amongst the Indians ventured not to approach it and offer it good counsel.

Referring to Poona, Mr. Chambers remarked that Mr. Rand "was not the man for the post—he lacked sympathy." The assassination of Mr. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst, he said, produced somewhat different emotions in the Anglo-Indian and Indian communities. The Anglo-Indian community were "amazed at the audacity of the Native who could shoot a couple of Englishmen," the Indians "were stricken with horror and fear—horror at the crime, and fear at that which might, and in fact did, follow." And never was a truth told with greater emphasis than when he observed that "there could be no doubt that these murders led to the trial and imprisonment of Mr. Tilak and the deportation of the Natu brothers." "As to the Natu brothers," he proceeded on to say, "he was strongly of opinion that these men were absolutely guiltless of any offence." And yet, they are being still treated as State prisoners.

Reverting to the riots and murders, Mr. Chambers repeated most emphatically that there was no political significance attaching to them: they were the outcome of the frenzied and frightened protest of the people against regulations, which they did not understand. After his experience he had come to the conclusion that "amongst the natives, fear of the plague operations was greater even than the fear of death. A Hindu would far rather die, surrounded by his family, than escape the plague in a hospital to which he was stranger and where he was surrounded by people whom he did not know." This was exactly the situation. The authorities, however, would not recognise it, and hence, the frightful miseries under which the people groaned.

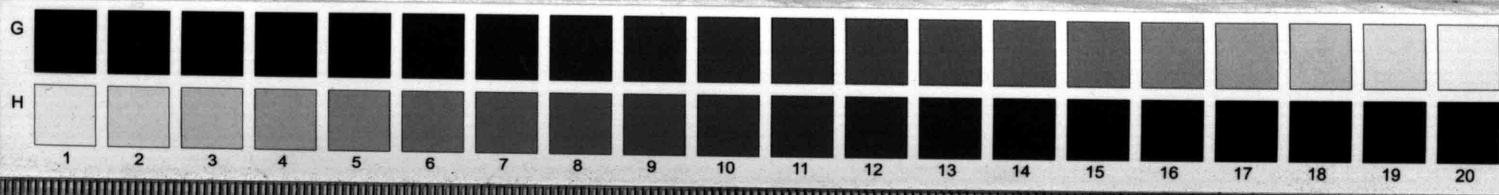
The Financial Statement of the Bombay Government showed it to be in a state of hopeless bankruptcy. The year's balance opened with nil. To add to the poignancy of its situation, the Imperial Government have ordered the Bombay Government to reconstruct a provincial balance from their savings—an utter impossibility for years to come. The helpless condition of the Bombay Government should open the eyes of all the Provincial Governments and lead them to combine and protect themselves from the fleecing of the Imperial Government. It is famine and plague that have brought financial ruin upon the Bombay Government. But the cost of famine and plague should have been met from the Imperial and not the Provincial Exchequer. To-day Bombay is a victim of the policy of the Imperial Government; to-morrow it may be the turn of Madras, the N. W. Provinces and the Punjab; and day after to-morrow, the Government of Bengal may have to file its schedule. Indeed, the District Boards in Bengal have been already pumped dry and the authorities here know not where to get money from to meet the cost of their administration. When the people of Khulna prayed for a dispensary, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in despair pointed them out to the Zemindars. But, they have been already slain many a time like the proverbial fowl, and they cannot be slain over again! The whole country will be with the Local Governments if they start a movement to save themselves from the encroachments of the India Government, that is to say, the Simla clique, composed of half-a-dozen men.

The other day while taking our tea, the deep inky colour of the beverage attracted our notice. We thought, there was something wrong somewhere; so we had another cup prepared before our own eyes. The drink presented the same colour again, though the leaves, sugar and milk looked apparently as good as they ought to be. The appearance of the sugar was, however, somewhat peculiar; and, on enquiry, we came to learn that it was not the ordinary country-made one, but the bounty-fed beet-sugar from Germany, France and Austria, which has made such havoc in the sugar-cane industry in the West Indies, and which has well-nigh monopolized the market in India. On tasting the beet-sugar, we found it not only less sweet than what this country produces, but a little bitter. It is a shame that the people of India, where date-trees abound and where sugar-canes are plentiful, and labour is cheap, should allow their own industry to be supplanted by that of some foreign European countries. It is quite true, it is cheap; but we should look to quality and not quantity. If it is cheap, it is also nasty. A seer of date-sugar may be somewhat dearer than a seer of beet-sugar; but the former will sweeten a larger quantity of tea, milk, or fruits than the former. So the beet-sugar is nominally cheap but practically dearer than our own. Then the horrible colour which the beet-sugar produces in tea, ought to lead the authorities to provide one year's imprisonment for those who use it. We have, of course, given strict

orders to our bazar Sarker never to purchase beet-sugar again for our use. We think, every Indian should issue similar instruction to his servants. The greatest sinners in this respect are the *methuwallas*, or the makers and sellers of sweets. They are generally ignorant people; and they purchase beet-sugar simply because they fancy they get it cheap. Now those who have dealings with these *methuwallas*, may warn them against the use of this foreign article, and thus bring them to their senses. They will at once give up their habit of using beet-sugar if they come to know that their customers don't like it. All our industries have one by one been stifled by foreign competition. We cannot, however, afford to lose our sugar industry. This means ruin to millions of ryots. Here is a serious work for our educated countrymen. They can drive back the beet-sugar from the Indian market, if they only take up the matter in hand with some earnestness. Of course, it is the duty of the authorities to do it; but they show no signs. Whenever an industry of any country is threatened in this way, the Government of that country comes forward to give it protection. In the West Indies, the sugar-planters cannot cope with the manufacturers of beet-sugar in the continent; and England has come forward to help them with money. In India, the Government, as we said, is utterly indifferent; and it is for this we demand some share in the administration of India, and not to supplant authority.It may be imagined that a great deal of sensation has been caused in England by the evidence given in court by Mr. Hooley regarding the numberless speculations he started and promoted recently in England. He deposes that he has paid so thousands of pounds to different Lords and Earls to induce them to be Directors, and that he bribed the press to write unfavourably about his concerns. The Peers are coming forward to contradict or explain away, if they can, Mr. Hooley's statements. One of them, however, namely, Lord De La Warr, Reuter telegraphs, actually offered money to Mr. Hooley to pursue his silence. Among the journals, said to have been subsidized by Mr. Hooley, are we find the names of the *Pall Mall Gazette* and the *Financial News*. They, of course, have their own versions of the affair. Mr. A. M. Broadley was one of Mr. Hooley's agents for "squaring the press." Who is this Broadley? We know one who was a member of the Bengal Civil Service in 1869, and who was compelled to resign then to go to Egypt for reasons not known. And another bearing the same name went to Egypt and defended Arabi Pasha and made himself famous in various other ways.

As will be found in our telegraph column, Mr. John Stanley, Q. C. has been appointed Judge of the Calcutta High Court in the place of Mr. Justice Trevelyan.

We know it was the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie which appealed against the acquittal of the prisoners implicated in the Burdwan murder case. But, may we enquire, who was the legal luminary that advised it to take such a risky step and bring humiliation upon itself? Or was it Sir Alexander Mackenzie himself—that autocrat of autocrats—who initiated the movement and took the responsibility upon his own shoulders? Now, if there was a case from which the Government should have stood aloof, it was this. It was a case between some Hindu and Mussalman young men. During a certain Hindu festival there was an altercation between the two parties, knives were used, and a Mussalman was killed and some Hindus wounded. Through the machinations of some people, the incident was seized to create a bad feeling between the Hindus and Mussalms of Burdwan. As a matter of fact, the passions of the latter were successfully inflamed, and they went the length of impugning the sense of justice of the Hindu officials of Burdwan, and praying for the transfer of the case. Their whims were satisfied and the case was transferred to Alipore. The Sessions Judge of Alipore, who is an Englishman, conducted the trial with the help of a jury, composed of some of the best men of the district. The Government was interested in securing a conviction, and appointed a special counsel on behalf of the Crown. The prosecution thus left no stone unturned to bring home the charges against the accused; but the Judge and jury could not convict unless there was evidence, and so the prisoners were unanimously acquitted. The case was an ordinary one; no political question was involved in it. Secondly, it seemed served to keep up a spirit of hatred between Hindus and Mussalms. The Government should have, therefore, never meddled with the matter. Thirdly, it was an English, and not a Hindu, Judge who had charged the jury; and it goes without saying, he did his duty with strict impartiality. But, in spite of all these circumstances, the Government, taking advantage of the barbarous section of the Criminal Procedure Code, was not ashamed to prefer an appeal against the acquittal. And what was the ground of appeal? It was that the Judge, who is an Englishman, had misdirected the jury! The High Court, however, rejected the appeal, and this completed the humiliation of the Government.





The letter of Babu Nivaran Chandra Mukerjee, shows that it is not all right at the Chakradharpore Plague Observation Camp. He belongs to Baranagore, and is, therefore, not a resident of the plague-stricken city of Calcutta. He was travelling with some Hindu ladies and a babe, and, therefore, deserved some special consideration. But he says, he and his companions were treated more like "criminals" than free people, and sought to be humiliated at almost every step. They had no signs of plague in them; they looked as healthy as those who examined them; yet they were marched about a quarter of a mile off—mind, the Hindu ladies who do not go beyond the four walls of their zenana, were made to walk all this distance—consigned in a mat hut, and made to pass the night there without a morsel of food. To add to the horrors of his situation, he says, he was asked to put out light and remain in total darkness in a strange place in a dark night with some young Hindu ladies! But for the kindness of the Native Doctor, who supplied them with some milk, the little babe might have suffered from long privation and its life would have been possibly endangered. It is quite true that Babu Nivaran Chandra started from Howrah; but when he gave his reasons why he could not avail of the nearest station to Baranagore and offered to prove by a telegraphic reference, to the Baranagore police that he did not live in Calcutta, there was absolutely no necessity to put him to all this trouble and humiliation, especially as he and his companions had no disease. The very fact that they were not detained for upwards of twenty-four hours, goes to show that there was no justification for their detention. Babu Nivaran Chandra makes some specific charges against the officer in charge, and we hope, an investigation will be made into them. We also submit that these camps should be placed only in the hands of sympathetic officials. Scores of people are daily detained and made to pass dreary lives for a week or ten days in the camp. Surely, it is not the intention of the Government that they should be treated otherwise than free people. Judging from the description of Babu Nivaran Chandra, it appears, that the plague huts are scarcely fit for even ordinary people to reside in, specially in this rainy season. There is, we are told, no special latrine arrangement for the ladies. As regards the articles of food, they are, we are assured, of the worst kind. It is the treatment accorded in many of these plague camps that is mainly at the root of the panic which overtakes people whenver plague measures are announced to them. It is both in the interests of the people and the Government that these camps should be improved and managed with as little suffering to the passengers as possible.

WHEN a question was asked in Parliament on the subject of the assault committed upon Mr. Sohoni by Captain Rowcroft, Lord George Hamilton, was pleased to observe that he was not going to take any action in the matter as "it is likely to be brought before a court of law." On reading this reply, a gentleman of Bombay made inquiries to a pleader-friend of Mr. Sohoni, and he got the following reply: "My positive information is Mr. Sohoni has not as yet taken criminal or civil action against the Captain, because his official superior, the Director of Public Instruction, has asked him (Mr. Sohoni) to wait till the hears from him, i. e., the Director of Public Instruction." To clear this point, the following question was put in the Bombay Legislative Council by the Hon. Mr. Garud:—

Is it a fact that, as stated in the Poona Dnyan Prakash of 4th August, 1898, Mr. Sohoni, Assistant Master in the Satara High School, has been directed by his official superiors not to take any legal proceedings against Lieutenant Rowcroft for his unprovoked assault as the matter is under the consideration of Government? Will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take in the matter?

Replying, H. E. the Governor said, so far as Government was aware no direction to abstain from legal proceedings had been given to Mr. Sohoni. Government did not propose taking any further action in the matter. So, a nice situation has been created for Mr. Sohoni, to get justice! The Secretary of State would not interfere because of his alleged intention to take legal action. Neither would the Local Government take any further action. Of course, the law court is open to Mr. Sohoni. But his official superior would not allow him to go there to seek redress. Mr. Sohoni is being driven from pillar to post!

The discovery of the supposed world beyond life would be an inestimable blessing to mankind. Dr. Hodgson claims to be such discoverer. A savant, he devoted his life to the examination of the so-called occult phenomena which have exercised the human mind from time immemorial. Himself an unbeliever, he was yet open to truth. From a manner in which he proceeded with his work, it was alleged, though unjustly, that a great object was not so much the discovery of truth as the exposure of humbugs. Indeed, he was the means of destroying the reputation of many an occultist, even that of Madame Blavatsky. It was Dr. Hodgson who succeeded in exposing the latest woman of the age, which, no doubt, Madame was. That Madame possessed "natural power," all those who were privileged to witness her phenomena must admit. Possibly she had now and then recourse to arts when her powers happened to fail her, to meet the importunities of her followers. In investigating such matters, one has to bear in mind that the detection of fraud in an occultist or a "spiritual medium," does not prove that genuine phenomena, manifested through her or him, are also false. But to return to Dr. Hodgson. After having succeeded in catching innumerable cheats, he himself was caught by a spiritual medium, called Mrs. Piper. This lady has been under the strict examination of Dr. Hodgson for a considerable number of years. Her method is to go into trance, and to speak or to write, representing persons who are dead. One George Pelham, an American, a young man of 32, an intellectual and a learned thinker, died of an accident. He and Dr. Hodgson were known to each other, not as friends but as intellectual and learned men, and had a discussion, two years before the death of Pelham, as to the possibility of future existence. Pelham then promised that if he found after his death that he lived he would "make things lively" to make men believe in a future existence. Well, a few weeks after the death of Pelham, he announced himself through Mrs. Piper. He first gave his full name and then he enumerated the names of some of his friends and acquaintances. He summoned them all to come and test him as to the truth of his existence. If Mrs. Piper, the medium, had been a humbug, she would not have dared to send for such people as would be able to expose her in a moment. A good many people responded to the summons, his father, and step-mother included. Each of these submitted the so-called George Pelham to a scrutinizing test, and everyone of them went away satisfied that he or she had direct communication with him. Thus comes a friend who has the utmost contempt for these "spirit-rappings." George Pelham accosts the septic, and tells the secrets only known to them both, and at last succeeds in sending him away a believer! George Pelham's father was a confirmed septic. He and his son had lived about thirty years together. Of course, for a cheat falsely representing the son, it is absolutely impossible to deceive the father under such circumstances. But the supposed George Pelham shows by his intimate knowledge of the affairs of the family that he is the George, his son, and no other. And thus the father goes away satisfied. J. Hart, a friend of George Pelham, had a sitting with Mrs. Piper. Mrs. Piper was controlled by George Pelham. George Pelham was intimate with James and Mary Howard and their daughters. John is Hart and Jim is Howard. The following report from Dr. Hodgson will now, we believe, be intelligible:—

The rest of the sitting, until almost the close, was occupied by statements from G. P. George Pelham's real name was given in full, also the names, both Christian and surname, of several of his most intimate friends, including the name of the sister.

Moreover, incidents were referred to, which were unknown to the sitters myself. One of the pair of studs which Hart was wearing was given to the medium. "Who gave them to me?" That's mine. I gave you that pair of studs. I sent that to you. (When?) Before. I came here. That's mine. Mother gave you that. (No.) Well, father then, father and mother together. You got those after I passed out. Mother took them. Gave them to father, and father gave them to you. I want you to keep them. I will, them to you. Mr. Hart notes: "The studs were sent to me by Mr. Pelham as a remembrance of his son. I know at the time that he had been taken from G.'s body, and afterwards ascertained that his step-mother had taken them from the body and suggested that they would do to send to me, I having previously written to ask that some little memento be sent to me."

James and Mary (Mr. and Mrs.) Howard were mentioned with strongly personal specific references, and in connection with Mrs. Howard came the name Katharine. Tell her, she'll know. I will solve the problems, Katharine. Mr. Hart notes: "This had no special significance for me at the time, though I was aware that Katharine, the daughter of Jim Howard, was known to George, who used to live with the Howards. On the day following the sitting I gave Mr. Howard a detailed account of the sitting. These words, 'I will solve the problems, Katharine,' impressed him more than anything else, and at the close of my account he related that George, when he had last stayed with them, had talked frequently with Katharine (a girl of fifteen years of age) upon such subjects as Time, Space, God, Eternity, and pointed out to her how unsatisfactory the commonly accepted solutions were. He added that some time he would solve the problems, and let her know, using almost the very words of the communication made at the sitting." Mr. Hart added that he was entirely unaware of these circumstances. I was myself unaware of them, and was not at that time acquainted with the Howards, and in fact, nearly every statement made at the sitting, during which I was the note-taker, concerned matters of which I was absolutely ignorant. These words, 'I will solve the problems, Katharine,' impressed him more than anything else, and at the close of my account he related that George, when he had last stayed with them, had talked frequently with Katharine (a girl of fifteen years of age) upon such subjects as Time, Space, God, Eternity, and pointed out to her how unsatisfactory the commonly accepted solutions were. He added that some time he would solve the problems, and let her know, using almost the very words of the communication made at the sitting." Mr. Hart added that he was entirely unaware of these circumstances. I was myself unaware of them, and was not at that time acquainted with the Howards, and in fact, nearly every statement made at the sitting, during which I was the note-taker, concerned matters of which I was absolutely ignorant.

"Meredith, an intimate friend of Mr. Hart and G. P., was mentioned. 'Lent a book to Meredith. Tell him to keep it for me. Go to my room where my desk is.' In reply to inquiries (April, 1892), Meredith stated that the last time he saw Pelham, was in Pelham's own room several months before the latter's death. They had spent the greater part of the day together, and Pelham had pressed Meredith to take away some of his manuscripts and books. Thus far the reference to Meredith seems to have been correct. But Meredith was unable to remember definitely, that he took any manuscript or book away."

G. P.: Jim, is that you? Speak to me quick, I am not dead. Don't think me dead. I'm awfully glad to see you. Can't you see me? Don't you hear me? Give my love to my father and tell him I want to see him. I am happy here, and more so since I find I can communicate with you. I pity those people who can't speak. I want you to know I think of you still. I spoke to John about some letters. I left things for you, mixed, my books and my papers; you will forgive me for this, won't you? (What do you do, George, where you are?) I am scarcely able to do anything yet; I am just awakened to the reality of life after death. It was like darkness, I could not distinguish anything at all. Darker hours just before dawn, you know

that, Jim. I was puzzled, confused. Shall have an occupation soon. Now I can see you, my friends. I can hear you speak! Your voice, Jim, I can distinguish with your accent and articulation, but it sounds like a big bass drum. Mine, would sound to you like the faintest whisper.

(Our conversation then is something like telephoning?) (By long distance telephone.)

(G. P. laughs.) (Were you not surprised to find yourself living?)

Perfectly so. Greatly surprised. I did not believe in a future life. It was beyond my reasoning powers. Now it is as clear to me as daylight. We have an astral fac-simile of the material body.

Jim, what are you writing now? (G. P. when living would probably have jeered at the associations of the word "astral."—R. H.) (Nothing of any importance?)

Why don't you write about this? (I should like to, but the expression of my opinions would be nothing. I must have facts.)

These I will give to you and to Hodgson if he is still interested in these things. (Will people know about this possibility of communication?)

They are sure to in the end. It is only a question of time when people in the material body will know all about it, and every one will be able to communicate. I want all the fellows to know about me. What is Rogers writing?

(A novel.) (No, not that. Is he not writing something about me?) (Yes, he is preparing a memorial of you.)

That is nice; it is pleasant to be remembered. It is very kind of him. He was always kind to me when I was alive. Martha Rogers (deceased daughter) is here. I have talked with her several times. She reflects too much on her last illness, on being fed with a tube. We tell her she ought to forget it, and she has done so in good measure, but she was ill a long time. She is a dear little creature when you know her, but she is hard to know. She is a beautiful little soul. She sends her love to her father.

Berwick, how is he? Give him my love. He is a good fellow; he is what I always thought him in life, trustworthy and honourable. How is Orenberg? He has some of my letters. Give him my warmest love. He was always very fond of me, though he understood me least of all my friends. We fellows who are eccentric are always misunderstood in life. I used to have fits of depression. I have none now. I am happy now. I want my father to know about this. We used to talk about spiritual things, but he will be hard to convince. My mother will be easier.

(As stated above, all the references to persons, incidents, characters, etc., so far as they are known to living persons, are correct.)

Among the private matters referred to was the disposition of the book, concerning which G. P. expressed orally the same desire as before. The only writing produced at this sitting moreover was confined to this matter, and was a message to his father repeating his wish.

He referred to a tin box of German manufacture which he said was either in New York or Z (giving the name, a very peculiar one, of the locality of his father's country residence). He said that it contained letters from three persons whom he specified. He wished the Howards to have this box. They replied that the letters were all burned.

G. P.: I think not. I want you to have them. I want you to tell my father about this. (Can't you give us something that will convince him? something we don't know and he does?)

I understand, a test. You can tell him about this tin box that I left in my room. I know they have taken the chest, but this tin box they have not. (The box was found at Z, but there were no letters in it.)

IN the course of the discussion on the Budget, two most important declarations were made on the part of the Bombay Government. One was that the military are pronounced to be unsuitable agents for plague work; and the other was that the control of the plague measures are not to be restored to the Bombay Municipality, from whose hands it has been taken.

A YOUNG man, named Campbell, who owns landed property at Agra, has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment for personating the District Superintendent of Police of Agra. Going to a village, he attempted extortion. He interviewed zemindars, bound up one of the villagers, and taking him away by train, left him at a small station. Campbell travelled on to Agra, where he was arrested. The prisoner intends to appeal.

A POONA telegram says:—Chimora, leader of the gang of dacoits, which was recently broken up by the police, has been arrested at the village of Bhayagaon, in the Nasik District. He was shot in the back during the encounter, but escaped. The police hearing of his hiding-place went to the house and surrendered with three companions, giving up two rifles and four swords. He was taken to Nasik where the people crowded to see him. The bullet has not been extracted from his wound. He is described as strongly built, with stern features, betokening a fearless disposition. In his confession he said that the object of his dacoities was revenge against money-lenders.

RAJAH Sir Savala Ramaswamy Mudaliar failed to appear in answer to summons issued by Mr. B. H. Chester, of the Town Police Court, at the instance of the Madras Municipality, against him on a charge of storing and drying wool in a godown, in Moor Street, Black Town. On the case being called on to-day it was reported that the Rajah was not in town. Whereupon His Worship directed a warrant to issue for the apprehension of the Rajah. The Municipal authorities who were in charge of the case then wanted to withdraw the charge against him, representing that he, Sir Savala Ramaswamy Mudaliar, was out of Madras at present. His Worship remarked that people in high position should respect law as much as humble folk. He would, however, adjourn the case for a fortnight to enable the Rajah to appear in person and explain his conduct.—M. S.

A MEETING of the Council of the Bombay Presidency Association was held on Friday at the rooms of the Association under the presidency of Mr. Khursheed Rustomji Cama, when the following Resolutions were placed on record as to the Association's sense of the deep loss it has suffered in the death of Dr. K. N. Bahadurji:—

"That this Council desires to place on record its deep sense of the loss sustained by the Association in the untimely death of Dr. K. N. Bahadurji, one of its most prominent and valuable members, whose zeal and public spirit were only surpassed by his energy and disinterestedness to promote all matters affecting popular welfare. That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Mr. Nasserwanji Dorabji Bahadurji, Dr. Bahadurji's father, with a suitable letter from the Secretaries.

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MAIL FORECAST.—The "Carthage," with the outward mails, is expected at Bombay at daylight on Saturday.

OBITUARY.—The Raja of Faridkot died of asthma and Bright's disease on Saturday evening, the 20th inst., after a long illness.

EARTHQUAKE.—A smart shock of earthquake was felt at Delhi on Monday morning at 9-23, of about 15 or 20 seconds' duration. No damage appears to have been done.

LEAVE.—Mr. Nunda Krishna Bose, officiating Magistrate and Collector, Dinapore, has been allowed leave for one month and fifteen days, Mr. Kiran Chandra De acting for him.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.—On the return from furlough of Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, Mr. F. R. S. Collier, who is now acting as Commissioner of the Patna Division, will be transferred to Burdwan.

STUDENT OF HOMOEOPATHY.—Baboo Amarnath Mookerjee, a student of the late Homoeopathic School, Calcutta, has left for America per S. S. *Malina* to finish his studies.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Cole from the Eastern Bengal Railway, succeeds Mr. Sykes as Under Secretary in the Public Works Department on the latter proceeding to Burma.

DEPARTURE FOR DARJILING.—Lady Woodburn leaves Calcutta for Darjiling to-day accompanied by Captain Horsford, A.D.C. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Mr. Gaye, Private Secretary, follow later on, but no date of their departure has been fixed upon as yet.

MEDICAL.—Assistant Surgeon Chuni Lal Bose, a Chemical Examiner to Government and Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Medical College, has been appointed to be in charge, in addition to his own duties, of the current duties of the office of Chemical Examiner to Government, and Professor of Chemistry, during the absence, on leave, of Surgeon Major L. A. Waddell.

BENGAL UNION.—At the meeting of the Bengal Union held at the City College Hall on the 20th instant, under the presidency of the Hon'ble Jatra Mohan Sen, it was resolved that two medals for the current year would be awarded to the two best writers of an essay on the necessity and utility of the feeling of brotherhood among the various Bengal communities and the means to attain it. The subject-matter of this essay is the aim and end of the Union, which is seeking to become a common platform for the cultivation of friendly feeling among Hindus, Mussulmans, Christians, Brahmans, etc., without in any way meddling with politics and the social and religious susceptibilities of any sect or creed.

THE LATE BABU R. T. LAHIRI.—The *Indian Messengers* says:—He loved his country so deeply that he could not endure the company of those who traduced his countrymen. He was once invited to a dinner party by the Commissioner of Bhagalpore. He was the only Bengali gentleman present, there being a large number of European officials. One of them, a young Civilian, began to speak very disparagingly of Bengalis. Babu Ramtanu indignantly rebuked him and was about to leave the party in disgust, when the host mollified him by saying that no importance should be attached to the thoughtless remarks of a young man. Our readers are aware how bitter was the antipathy displayed by Sir Rivers Thompson to the people of this country during the Ilbert Bill agitation. When Sir Rivers was Judge of Krishnagur, he was on terms of the most cordial friendship with Babu Ramtanu. Happening to see him once when the Ilbert Bill controversy was raging, Sir Rivers came to shake hands with him, but Babu Ramtanu told him he could not shake hands with one who did not respect his country. If there were a little more of such manliness in the land, it would not be so degraded.

BHAGALPORE DIVISION.—Mr. C. J. 'Donnell' has been appointed to act as Commissioner of Bhagalpore.

THE NEW LOAN.—A latest telegram from Simla says:—Non-official opinion estimates Rs. 94-12 as about the price at which the New Loan is likely to go off. There should be a comfortable margin on this, as Government Paper is almost certain to rise at least one or two per cent when the Loan is disposed of.

A JUROR'S "WEIGHTY" REASON.—One of the jurors summoned at the Old Bailey, the other day was a gentleman who begged the Common Sergeant to excuse him, as he weighed 22½ st. and could not possibly get into the jury box. His Lordship complied with this pathetic request, remarking, amidst laughter, "It is a weighty reason."

AN ENTERPRISING BENGAL YOUTH.—A correspondent writes:—It will be interesting to many of your readers to know that Babu Rama Kanta Rai, of Sylhet, an enterprising young man, has proceeded to Japan for studying Mining Engineering. We think he is the pioneer among the Bengalees to go to Japan for learning a technical subject.

DONATION.—A correspondent writes:—Kumar Upendra Chunder Chowdhry, a well-known Zemindar of Golokpur, in Mymensingh, has contributed a sum of Rs. 5,000 towards the construction of the Alexander Girls' School building in the town of Mymensingh, in commemoration of the Lieutenant-Governor's recent visit to this District.

A STRANGE PHENOMENON.—A correspondent writes from Halishahar:—Babu S. K. Mukerji had a servant who breathed his last, having suffered from a chronic disease for a long time. Now, just about the place, where he used to pay visits for easing himself, a sound of human being in extreme agony is being made both at day and night between 10 and 11 hours in the morning, and 22 and 23 hours in the night. A number of undergraduates volunteered to watch the phenomenon and to examine the place minutely, but they could make neither head nor tail out of it.

AN OPTICAL PHENOMENON.—Babu Rohini Kumar Bose writes from Dacca:—Will any of your scientific readers be good enough to explain the following strange phenomenon which is observed from the Buckland Bund of this city and from almost all the villages situated on the other side of the river Buriganga? A patient observer will see that almost every night the south-eastern horizon is suddenly illumined at intervals with a flash of light resembling an electric light and lasting for several minutes together with a ray of steaming light resembling a rocket gently moving from right to left and left to right. It is supposed to be ignitions by some people; but on a careful observation it will be found that it is nothing of the kind. The light, as far as has been ascertained, was not observed before and has come into existence within a year or two.

WEATHER AND CROP.—There was rain all over the Province during the week ending August 22, and the general agricultural prospects are favourable. More rain is still required in Tamluk, Contai, Uluberia, Diamond Harbour, Jalpaiguri, Mymensingh, Tippera, Bihar, Champaran, Durbhanga, Malda, Angul, and Hazaribagh, to complete transplantation of the winter rice. In Midnapore some of the lands re-sown after the late floods are said to be again under water, and grass-hoppers are doing damage to the paddy plants in places. Early rice and jute are being harvested. Other *bhadai* crops and sugarcane are doing well. There was a fall in the price of common rice in some districts owing to the appearance of the new *aus* crop in the market. Fodder-supply is everywhere sufficient. Cattle are generally in good condition, but disease is reported from some districts.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned the entertainment of four additional Munsiffs from 1st September next on the representation made to him by the Madras High Court.

MR. F. MACLEAN has assumed officiating charge of the post of Director-General of the Indian Telegraph Department, Mr. Reynolds having proceeded on privilege leave to Kashmir.

PRINCE RANJITSINGH is coming to Poona next week to play cricket on the side of Kathiawar against Lord Sandhurst's team. He will be the guest of the Governor during his stay there.

ONE of the biggest house-owners in Madras, Mr. Numbermal Chetty, is now making arrangements for lighting some of his houses with acetylene gas.

DR. DAVID DUNDAN, Director of Public Instruction, Madras, whose term of office expires on the 31st March next, has applied to the Government for the extension of his service by two years.

ACCORDING to the *Dacca Prokash*, a serious allegation is made against Moulvie Fazal Karim, Deputy Magistrate of Munshigunge, Two persons, Adam Ali and Kadam Ali, were kept in jail as under-trial prisoners, for more than six months, and subsequently sentenced to one year's imprisonment each, by the Moulvie. Now Adam Ali's son alleges, in an affidavit filed in the court, that the Moulvie had been frustrated by Adam Ali and Kadam Ali in his attempts, on behalf of his wife, to take unlawful possession of a piece of land belonging to another person, and this was why they were made defendants in a criminal case, and dealt with, as stated above.

THE Royal Society of Great Britain contemplates voting a sum of money for the prosecution of researches regarding the cause or causes of malaria, with special regard to the relation of the mosquito and its grub to the malarial parasite. The British Colonial Office will, it is said, make a contribution; and a small Committee, consisting of two medical men and an entomologist, will first visit India and, later on, Western Africa. The appointment of a competent Indian to the Committee would be a distinct advantage, as he will be able to help the Committee with various necessary information having important bearings on the subject-matter.



## PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

## OFFICIAL REPORT.

From Friday the 19th instant to Tuesday the 23rd instant there were four fresh cases and one death. The total of "true cases" up to the 23rd instant was 216 and deaths 176.

PLAGUE has also broken out in the Room Taluka, one case having occurred in Dhond.

GREAT precautions have been taken at the Poona railway station. Passengers coming from Southern India are all subjected to inspection.

FROM the 1st of September all passengers proceeding to Europe will have to be examined at the Ballard Pier, at Bombay before going on board. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Venice Convention.

PLAGUE has broken out in the village of Khidrapur, in the Kolhapur State. There were also two cases at the Raybag quarantine camp, near Kolhapur. Several dead rats have been found at the village of Chimpri in Kolhapur.

THE case of plague was brought by the "Ballarat" from Bombay and not Calcutta. After landing the patient the Galle steamer proceeded eastwards. The patient died on Sunday night in the plague hospital.

At Bangalore there have already been seven deaths from plague, and of a family attacked ten days ago, one died there, and the remaining six escaped towards Madras, but four were subsequently attacked with plague and died at Turvalla, which is only 70 miles from Madras. Slight disturbances occurred at Bangalore on Saturday among the lower class and Mahomedans, but order was soon restored.

The total number of persons examined at the four observation camps from the up-trains during the week ending 14th August, was 7,911, out of which 448 "suspects" were detained—304 at Chousa, 54 at Marwa, and 88 at Chakradharpur. The total number examined in the down-trains was 12,474, and of these, 497 "suspects" were detained—229 at Chousa, 62 at Chakradharpur, 114 at Kharda, and 40 at Marwa. At the new observation station on the Chousa steamer, there were 2 detentions from up-trains, and 2 on the down-trip.

A BANGALORE telegram to the *Indian Daily News* says:—A Mahomedan woman in the segregation camp developed plague symptoms on Monday, when news was conveyed to the city, whereupon a gang of 200 Mahomedans proceeded to the camp and demanded the restoration of the woman. The police promptly dispersed the mob. The next morning the Plague Commissioner, the British Resident and a party were met at the camp by a large crowd of Mahomedans and Hindus, but they would not be convinced of their folly in opposing the kind measures adopted by the Government. The party left the mob disgusted. The Resident threatening to set the law against them if they persisted in opposing the authorities. A spirit of unrest prevails in the city.

THE following cases of plague and deaths therefrom were reported to the Bombay Government during the week ending August 19th:—Cities: Bombay, 14 cases, 118 deaths; Karachi, 9 cases, 5 deaths; Poona, 2 cases, 4 deaths; districts: Kaira, 2 cases, 1 death, Broach, 36 cases, 30 deaths; Surat, 79 cases, 60 deaths; Thana, 291 cases, 236 deaths; Nasik, 68 cases, 58 deaths; Satara, 124 cases, 76 deaths; Sholapur, 56 cases, 44 deaths; Belgaum, 509 cases, 437 deaths; Dhawar, 818 cases, 680 deaths; Political Agencies: Baroda, 89 cases, 58 deaths; Kathiawar, 109 cases, 81 deaths; Kolhapur, 136 cases, 97 deaths; Cutch, 36 cases, 22 deaths; Sachin, 34 cases, 41 deaths; 20 cases, 9 deaths; Bhors State, 41 cases, 35 deaths. Total for the week 2,651 cases and 2,055 deaths. Total deaths to date, 98,268.

A CURIOUS discovery has been made by Mr. Hankin, says the *Pioneer*, which explains one of the difficulties met with in the attempt to eradicate plague. Mr. Hankin has carried out a series of experiments which especially reference to disinfection against plague. While in Hardwar he discovered that it is extremely difficult to disinfect an "ordinary" mud and cow-dung floor. Instead of eradicating them the ordinary solutions, sublimate and carbolic acid, were found to lead to an apparent increase in the number of microbes present. The failure of the sublimate solution was found to be due to the destruction of the sublimate by alkaline substances in the floor. The reason for the failure of the carbolic acid for some time puzzled the investigators, but experiments carried out by Mr. Hankin and Lieutenant Storrock, R.A., ultimately proved that the failure was due to the cow-dung, not to the mud. The latter was easily disinfected by means of 1 per cent. of carbolic acid. Further it was found that the microbes bred in the cow-dung do not possess any special resisting power, for they were easily killed when separated from the dung. The resistance to disinfection depends on the presence of some substance in the cow-dung protecting the microbes from the action of these disinfectants. That substance is, Mr. Hankin does not know.

THE Madras Government has furnished the following information regarding the occurrence of plague in Southern India:—*Hospet*: On the 1st August two railway travellers from Belgaum were found suffering from plague and were detained in the plague camp. One died. On the 4th and 5th August there was one and on the 14th there were no further cases. *Kodakana*: On the 5th August a native servant, who had lately come from Bombay was attacked with plague and was at once segregated. He appears to be recovering. There have been no further cases. *Guntakal*: On the 13th August a railway veller from Hubli was attacked with plague and died. On the 14th instant, a woman who lived in the railway station and on the 16th instant a platform coolie were attacked. The first is progressing favourably, the condition of the latter is unfavourable. *Yellayanellore* (North district): On the 12th August a Madras supply porter, in whose house at Bangalore suspicious deaths from fever had occurred, for Tiruvallam, with his wife and four children. On the 13th instant one child died. Yellayanellore where the man and the three living children died of fever and where the wife has been attacked with a fever which seems plague, though no buboes are present. She is treated by the Civil Surgeon

and has been segregated along with the members of the family with whom she came to stay. The Collector has supervised the sanitary measures on the spot. *Bangalore*: There have been seven deaths from plague since the 11th August and there are now three cases under treatment. Note—An inspection station is being opened at Jalapeet, and the district of Salem has been declared to be under observation.

## GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Maulvi Syad Abdul Malek, substantive pro tempore Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Jessor, is allowed leave for three months. Babu Basanta Kumar Raha, acting for him. Babu Pran Kumar Das, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, and Personal Assistant to the Commisr. of the Bhagalpur Din, is allowed leave for one month and sixteen days. Babu Basanta Krishna Bose acting for him. Babu Kinnud Bandhu Das Gupta, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, on excise work, Mymensingh, on leave, is transferred to Monghyr.

In modification of the order of the 16th August 1898, Babu Nadia Chand Dutt, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Khurda Tahsil in the dist. of Puri.

Mr. Birendra Chandra Sen, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for two months.

Babu Kunja Bihari Gaswami, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, on leave is posted to Mymensingh.

Mr. E. L. L. Hammond, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, is posted to Darjeling.

Mr. H. C. L. Bamber, Dist Sup of Police Khulna is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Paroda Kinkar Mukerjee, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Cuttack, to be ordinarily stationed at Balasore.

The orders of the 5th April 1898, appointing Babu Mohendra Lal Das B.L., to the fourth grade of Munsifs and posting him to Comilla, but to be on deputation as an Addl Munsif in Bankura, are cancelled.

Mr. Abinash Chunder Mitra, Munsif of Subharam, in the district of Noakhali, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Shoshi Bhushan Chatterjee, Munsif of Bihar, in the district of Patna, is allowed leave for three weeks.

Babu Balam Das Gupta, substantive pro tempore Sub-Dy Coll, is posted temporarily to Singbhum.

Babu Nishi Kanta Chatterjee, substantive pro tempore Sub-Dy Coll, Nadia, is transferred to Murshidabad.

Maulvi Mohammed Faizulla Khan, Sub-Dy Coll, Dacca Division, is posted to the Tangail subdivision of the district of Mymensingh.

Babu Ananda Chandra Basu, Sub-Dy Coll Tangail, Mymensingh, is transferred to the Jamalpur subdivision of that district.

Babu Chari Chandra Banerjee, substantive pro tempore Sub Dy Coll, Monghyr, is appointed to be Superintendent of the Arrah Distillery, in the district of Shahabad.

Maulvi Sad Abul Fazal, substantive pro tempore Sub Dy Coll, Burdwan, is allowed leave for three months.

Maulvi Syed Azizuddin Mohamed Abul Barkaat, su stative pro tempore Sub Dy Coll, is transferred to the Rajshahi Division.

## STRANGE USES OF THE RONTGEN RAYS.

MR. RUDOLPH SPECKELS, of California, has found a curious use for the renowned X-rays. He has an enormous poultry farm there, and has lost a lot of money in his time from keeping hens that have been dead heads, owing to not laying eggs. As Mr. Speckels keeps 10,000 hens, and has estimated from careful observation that one hen in five does not repay his cost by producing eggs, he has found himself with about 2,000 hens that are worth little.

So the egg farmer has conceived the idea of experimenting on hens with the X-rays, to see if they are any value in this respect, and he has found the experiment highly successful. About thirty hens can be dealt with in this way in an hour, and Mr. Speckels sends all that are proved useless as layers to the poultry market at once. He has had a great saving in corn since he has begun his novel use of the latest development of science.

It has been suggested that there will be no need in future for any opening of the coffin in certain cases of exhumation, as all that is required to be known can be learned by using the new X-ray photography. Thus in a well-known case which will shortly occupy the law courts, in which the wife was buried and supposed to contain her husband's body, the truth of this contention can be easily learned by employing the Rontgen rays. They will soon reveal whether the coffin contains a body or not. The benefit to humanity from the use of them, saving as it does all danger of infection from disease or that obnoxious element, can scarcely be overestimated.

A well-known dealer in mummies from Egypt has also used the X-rays in a novel manner. He found himself and his agents being frequently swindled by Egyptians selling him pretended mummies which afterwards proved to be all "fakes."

But there are certain internal marks beneath the cloths in which mummies are wrapped, which are unfailing tests as to their genuineness. Now the X-rays enable the agents of the dealer to tell mummy or only a "fake," and the dealer has found himself much in pocket in consequence.

The latest use of the Rontgen rays, which has been prominently brought to our notice, is that of the case of the Prince of Wales, who, as is well known, severely fractured his knee cap whilst on a visit to the country house of Baron Rothschild. The surgeons employed the X-rays to determine the exact amount of the injury the knee cap had sustained, and its precise location. By this means they were greatly assisted in their treatment of their distinguished patient.

The Rontgen rays have become so commonly used in all the largest hospitals as scarcely known that they are now being widely used in many foundries and engine-shops for detecting any "fault" in the various pieces of iron-work that go to make up an engine, a bridge, or any other more general employment of them for this purpose, the day of bad places in all such manufactured iron should be past, or nearly so. In this respect alone many lives should be saved from this application of the latest scientific discovery.

THE Reception Committee of the 14th Indian National Congress has been formed consisting of 180 members with power to add to their number. Its Chairman, Secretaries and Treasurers will be shortly elected.

## Correspondence.

## ALLEGED SUFFERINGS AT THE CHAKRADHARPORE PLAGUE CAMP.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—On the 9th instant, while travelling with some ladies of our household and an infant, barely a year old, I was detained at the Chakradharpoore Plague Observation Camp. I do not know what warranted my detention, for I am a resident of Baranagore—not included within the plague-infected area, and I asked the Medical Officer to satisfy himself as to the truth of this fact by wiring to the Police officer at Baranagore, the cost of which I was ready to bear. Neither did any one of our party present a plague-stricken appearance; and even if we did so, I think the Medical Officer in charge must have had superhuman powers to detect plague symptoms in so short a time. Properly speaking, we were not examined: our tickets only were checked. But our fault was that we had booked ourselves from Howrah and the reason of this was that the train in which I travelled does not stop at Bally—the station nearest to Baranagore. I did not see any arrangement for examining the ladies. True, there was a lady Doctor, but no screen as there was at Khana. The ladies were made to get down on the platform which was filled with police constables. You will understand how the examination is conducted when I tell you that the whole train is done in not more than five minutes.

As soon as our detention was ordered, we were made over to the Police like criminals. I asked for permission to send a telegram to my men who were waiting for me at Jharasguda, but did not get it. Then, under police escort we were made to walk over to the camp—about a quarter of a mile off. It was drizzling then, and we had no umbrella with us. On arrival at the camp we were shown to a hut, walled with bamboo matting. There was only one door, or rather a hole, for it was nothing better. Consequently there could be no ventilation. The floor was damp; and with a leaky roof in this rainy season, nothing better could be expected. We arrived just at evening and had to pass the night without any food. I do not know how would it have fared with the babe, had not the Native Doctor kindly given us a little milk. But this was an act of personal kindness and should not be taken as a part of the arrangements made by the authorities.

We had a lantern with us which we left burning in the hut, and we had to pay dearly for this luxury. A little before midnight someone from the outside ordered me to put out the light. On asking the reason, I was told that such was the order of the Burra Sahib. At this, visions of theft and violence rose in my mind, and I refused to extinguish the light. But during the rest of the night, I was disturbed every half hour by some one gruffly asking me to make it dark within the hut. We had thus to pass a sleepless night.

Morning dawned, and I welcomed the light which no earthly power could shut out. I came out of the hut and had an opportunity of looking over the surrounding place. There were 35 huts, similar to the one we were put in. All these and three more sheds were erected on a rectangular piece of land, fenced in with barbed wires, and there was only one gate. There were sentries at the gate and on all sides of the enclosure. It appeared as if they were guarding a penal settlement. And surely, on trying to get out of the enclosure I was roughly pushed inside and told to remain where I was. I was even forbidden to talk to any one outside the enclosure. In the morning I again pressed the Medical Officer in charge when he came to visit the camp, to send my telegrams. At first he refused, and on my asking him to write his orders on the paper, he sent it.

There were two latrines very close to the huts and it is not for a layman like me to question the wisdom of the authorities about it. Now that the morning was a little advanced and all the inmates of the camp were abroad, it was impossible for the ladies to come out of the hut. On representing the matter to the Native Doctor he was kind enough to convert an adjoining hut into a bath-room for the ladies, and for this the poor fellow had to suffer a good chiding from the Medical Officer in charge when he came to visit the camp. On seeing the bath-room he asked the Native Doctor "why he had shown such considerations to these women?" You may well conceive, what were my feelings when I heard this. I mildly protested against the insult, but was rudely told to be silent. This took place in the presence of the Native Doctor and some of the "suspects."

Now it was time to think of the inner man, the more so as we had fasted all the night and had but a scanty breakfast the morning before. There was no place where we could cook our own food and had to be satisfied with what was to be obtained from the only shop of a *Hakwai* within our reach. The stuff that we got was neither wholesome nor pure; I cannot say how the Doctors pass such things as edible. However, I must not omit to mention here that we were more fortunate with regard to our supply of milk.

Without a word as to fumigation, my description would be incomplete. Our clothes were fumigated, and I hope the plague germs were destroyed by the process. But the beauty of the thing was that the major portion of our luggage, consisting of beddings, etc., which was in the brake van, had been allowed to go away on the previous evening; and if there was any plague bacillus with me, they had already commenced their deadly work at Jharasguda to which place they had been booked.

Another thing which struck me as very incongruous, was the commingling of Bombay suspects with those from Calcutta. I do not know how far it is wise to let people from Bombay where the plague is real and epidemic, to mix with people from Calcutta where the plague is yet only suspected and sporadic. Who can say if the fell disease breaks out in Calcutta in an epidemic form and these plague camps prove centres of infection?

I spent the greater portion of the day in walking over the camp and conversing with its inmates; and from all that I saw and heard, I can safely say that if there is anything which tends to create discontent, it is not the "Native Press" nor the "irresponsible agitators," but the manner in which measures like these are carried out by unsympathetic officers.

I do not know how long I would have been detained there, had it not been (as I learnt afterwards) for the interference of kind and influential friends whom I had wired about my unpleasant position. I was released in the afternoon at 5 P.M., after twenty-four hours of detention, and was allowed to proceed on my journey by the next train.

NIVARAN CHANDRA MUKERJEE.

Baranagore.

It is now regarded as a certainty that there will be no renewal of the fighting in Bajour.

The names of Professor M. Rangacharya, M.A., and Mr. C. Nagoji Rao, B.A., are mentioned in connection with the post of Director of Public Instruction in Travancore.

FLOODS have occurred at several places in Burma between Pymnana and Mandalay, breaching the line at Minzu, and the rush coming down from the highlands in a wet zone. The mail train from Mandalay arrived at Rangoon ten hours late on Sunday, and five hours late on Monday.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Madras Standard* from Anantapur:—The so-called sedition case which has been hanging fire on the file of the Dy. Magistrate of Anantapur in which a fanatic goldsmith of Tadpatri was charged with the offence of some ridiculous nonsense, uttered and circulated by him in bulletins to the effect that Vasantharayudu will ere long become the ruler of the world and redeem people from their woes and sins, was thrown out.

ONE Abdullah Khan was being tried, along with others, by the Deputy Magistrate of Shajehannore, on a charge of rioting. During the trial, he presented an application for the transfer of the case, alleging that he did not, for various reasons, expect a fair and impartial trial, as there was an enmity between the Deputy Magistrate and himself on account of one Musammat Musharraf. The petition was sent to the District Magistrate for disposal, who ordered the prosecution for disposal, petitioner under section 228 of the Indian Penal Code. This trial came up before a sub-judge, Abdullah Khan, who convicted Musammat's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200. On appeal, the conviction and sentence were upheld by the District Judge. The High Court on revision, and Mr. Justice Burkill set aside the conviction, and sentence and remanded the appellant. His Lordship in the judgment gave it as his strong opinion that section 228 of the I. P. Code was not intended to be used in such a case as this, and expressed his belief that the appellant never meant to offer an insult to the trying Deputy Magistrate, but simply wanted a transfer of his case.

THE Bombay Provincial Budget was presented at the meeting of the local Legislative Council held on the 19th inst. The year 1897-98 was the first year of the new contract term which is to expire on the 31st March, 1902; and though it opened with a balance of Rs. 4,008,000, minimum balance of twenty lakhs, as required by rule, opens with no balance at all. This is, no doubt, a serious financial embarrassment. The occurrence of famine throughout the Deccan and the outbreak of plague, compelled the diversion of large sums to measures of famine relief and public health. The Bombay Government is financially, to use an expression of the Hon'ble member presenting the Budget, "on its beam end," and it is apprehended that for years to come, attempts to improve the administration, to provide the additional staff and establishments, urgently needed in more departments, material and educational, will be most seriously crippled, if not rendered impossible, by a lack of the requisite funds. Several Hon'ble members spoke on the Budget, namely, the Government was bankrupt, and as such, did not deserve criticism but condoleability by the Imperial Government. The Hon'ble Mr. Mehta remarked that after refusing assistance from England towards the expenses of the frontier war, the Supreme Government was able to show a surplus in the running Budget by starving the President's. He gave it as his clear opinion that the policy of the Plague Committee had proved "financially disastrous" and that they squandered, if not "criminally wasted" the public money.

In acquitting the accused in a murder case the other day, Mr. Crumps, the Sessions Judge of Satara, passed a grave censure on the local police officers, remarking that "there has been a deliberate attempt on the part of the police to manufacture evidence against a man against whom any intelligent investigating officer must have seen that there was not a shadow of reasonable suspicion." The Judge held that there was direct evidence to show that a little girl had been tutored by the police. "When Judge," she was accompanied to the witness-box by a police sepo in plain clothes. He was ordered to withdraw. The girl was asked no answer. Finally, she burst into tears and protested that she knew nothing of the matter, and that the police had tutored her; more than this, she refused to say." The Judge proceeds:—"The court, therefore, examined her father, who came with her from the village, and his evidence, which I see no reason whatever to doubt, shows that the girl was taken from her home at 9 p.m. on Friday, the 3rd of June, and kept at the police post at Mhaswad until the morning of Sunday, the 5th, and that when she returned home she told her father in detail how she had been induced by threats to make the statement which she did make in the court or the committing magistrate." But what is more, is this? The Judge remarks that "the case is only too common; it is its exposure that is unfortunately rare, and it is difficult to see how end can be put to these abominable malpractices which are a disgrace to the police department. It is almost impossible to speak temperately of such things when one remembers jeopardy by such foul means. In the present instance, I would strongly urge the necessity of an immediate and thorough enquiry into the manner in which the police investigation was conducted, to be made by an independent

## Telegrams.

## [INDIAN TELEGRAMS]

SIMLA, AUG. 21. The Government of India has sanctioned pensions to about five hundred native soldiers, who were rendered unfit for service during the last frontier campaign. Pensions range from Rs 4 to Rs. 25 according to rank.

The Government of India has decided that the Quarter Master General with flying camps will accompany the Commander-in-Chief to the plains and the Deputy Quarter Master General will remain in charge of the Central Office.

Mr. John Stanley, Q. C., of the Irish Bar, has been appointed a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, in succession to Mr. Justice Trevelyan.

It is likely that Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert, Assistant Adjutant General, Sirhind District, will be appointed Military Secretary to Sir William Lockhart.

SIMLA, AUG. 23.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. H. Risley arrived here last evening, and will soon take charge of the Financial Department of the Government of India.

The Simla Municipality is pretty well certain to vote a farewell address to Lord Elgin. The matter will be finally settled to-morrow.

It is raining continually for the last two days.

## [FOREIGN TELEGRAMS]

LONDON, AUG. 19.

The Queen personally decorated ten Danish gall heroes at Osborne to-day, and individually commented on their gallantry.

LONDON, AUG. 19.

Reuters, telegraphing from Peking, confirms, and he opinion that the situation in the Far East is easier. It is understood that the negotiations between Russia and Great Britain on Chinese affairs will be transferred to St. Petersburg or London.

Korea has refused to give the Germans a concession for the construction of railways, declaring that she is able to construct her own railways.

LONDON, AUG. 20.

Owing to troubles in Austrian Galicia, trial by jury has been suspended in several districts.

LONDON, AUG. 21.

The Tsung-li-Yamen is favourably disposed towards the proposal for the transfer to an Anglo-German Syndicate of the concession for the construction of a railway between Tientsin and Chinkiang, which has already been granted to a Chinese concessionaire named Yungwing, who has hitherto been unable to find capital to carry out the work.

LONDON, AUG. 21.

Reuters's correspondent at Zanzibar telegraphs that the Ogaden Somalis, who have long been in rebellion, have now submitted to Sir Arthur Hardinge, the Consul-General, and going to Kismayu, to arrange terms with the British.

LONDON, AUG. 21.

The army transport, under Colonel Martin, which has reached the camp at Makowieh, four hundred days above Atbara. The march proved to be a trying one to the troops, while the country was found to be deserted.

LONDON, AUG. 22.

The text of the official despatch giving the details of the surrender of Manila received at Washington shows that the surrender applies only to the city of Manila and to the "forces stationed therein. It is expressly declared that the Spaniards capitulated with all the honours of war. Cable communication with Manila has now been restored.

LONDON, AUG. 22.

The position at Manila has assumed an ugly aspect. Several hundred insurgents have deserted and are trying to enter the city. Aguinaldo, the insurgent leader, holds the city being now in great need of water, and General Anderson has sent to Cavite to manage open negotiations with Aguinaldo.

LONDON, AUG. 22.

Owing to representations made by Great Britain that the fortification of heights recently erected in the vicinity of Gibraltar are not consonant with the existing friendly relations between Great Britain and Spain, the latter country has withdrawn the batteries and troops.

LONDON, AUG. 22.

The steamer Pectan has been sunk in the Mediterranean after being in collision with the French steamer Druentia. The crew of the Pectan were safely landed at Algiers. The steamer Ramza, five thousand tons, laden with coals for Aden, collided with the Dundee steamer Gloaming off the Goodwins. The Ramza had to be beached.

LONDON, AUG. 23.

There are indications that President McKinley favours the retention of the Island of Luzon only, but nothing definite has been settled yet regarding the future of the Philippines.

Thirteen hundred more troops left San Francisco yesterday for Manila, but a fast mail steamer was subsequently despatched to recall some of them.

LONDON, AUG. 23.

A large increase to the American Navy is contemplated.

LONDON, AUG. 23.

The American flag was hoisted with great ceremony at Hawaii on the 12th instant.

LONDON, AUG. 23.

The Conference of the British American and Canadian Commissioners is to meet to-day at Quebec, to discuss and settle the outstanding questions between America and Canada. The British and American Press alike emphasize the far-reaching importance of this Conference.

LONDON, AUG. 23.

The army under the command of the Sirdar Omdurman. The country was found to be fertile, but devastated, the streets in Metemneh being blocked.



## THE NATUS AND THE NURSE

complaints regarding alleged grievances.

tioned is alleged or suggested. The accused are still in custody in Bahawalpur territory and a requisition for their surrender has been made. If they will, it is believed, be put on their trial on arrival in British territory.

complaints regarding alleged grievances.

complaints regarding alleged grievances.

name is "Tale to Tell" myself. I am Dr. J. C. Remondin's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy and have found numerous occasions to test its merits, not only on myself, but on others as well. I truly say that I have never in a single instance, had any failure. I consider it one of the best remedies traveling men carry, and could rely in instances where I have used the remedy, especially, much to their surprise and relief. I, the very traveling man in the U. S., will carry a bottle of this remedy in his grip. Fore sale by

**SMITH STANISTREET & Co. and**  
**B. K. PAUL & Co., Chemists,**

and the police investigation was

Centre

Figure 1 shows a color calibration target with seven color patches labeled 6 through 12. Below the patches is a ruler with markings in millimeters and centimeters.

**for Studies in Social S**



## India and England.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, AUG. 5.

## IMPRESSMENT OF MEN AND ANIMALS.

ON Monday evening last, Lord Northbrook called attention in the House of Lords to the statement made by Mr. Thorburn, in the now memorable and historic speech at Simla, that 100,000 animals and 25,000 owners had been impressed in the Punjab for the recent frontier operations, and moved for copies of any correspondence on the matter. His Lordship repeated the grave charges made by Mr. Thorburn, whom he declared rightly to be the most competent authority in India on such a subject, and pointed out that none of the high officials present, when the speech was made, ventured to contradict these statements about impressment. He demanded to be told under what law this impressment had taken place? He urged that a full enquiry into the whole administration of the frontier campaigns should be made, and the result submitted to Parliament. He pointed out that the corvée had long since been abolished in Egypt, and that it was monstrous that we should be carrying out an equally objectionable system in one of the most loyal and important provinces of India. The Earl of Onslow was evidently much upset by this attack from so firm a supporter of the present Government as the Earl of Northbrook. As usual, when any inconvenient question is raised in Parliament, the India Office had "no information." There had been no correspondence at all on the subject between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India. It certainly seems incredible to me that an event of such historical importance as the Simla meeting, presided over by the Viceroy, and attended by every big wig in the place, should not have been communicated in any way to the Secretary of State, and that, in consequence, the Under-Secretary when challenged about it, can only reply that he had "only the statements in the Indian newspapers to go upon, and he was not able to say whether they were correct or not." He declared that it was not in accordance with the practice in India, or in this country either, for a public servant, such as Mr. Thorburn was, to make an attack on the policy of the Government which employed him. Mr. Thorburn had expressed his regret and apologised to the Indian Government for the way in which statements had been laid before the public, and his apology had been accepted. Lord Onslow, however, did not say, "because he could not," that Mr. Thorburn had abated or withdrawn any of those attacks, his apology was for the manner of delivery, and not for the matter delivered. Like their *lettres de cachet* the Government have to go back to the days of John Company to justify this monstrous oppression of imprisonment of animals and owners, and have to fall back for justification upon a regulation in the Bengal Code, dating from 1806, and amended in 1825. "That Code," said Lord Onslow, "had been applied to the whole of India, and it was hedged in with a number of safeguards against abuse. It was the duty of the Governor-General in case of war to call upon the landowners in the districts, through which the troops would pass, to furnish the necessary facilities. In case of their failing to do this, there was power to impose fines, varying according to the circumstances in each case. That power was not entrusted to the sole authority of the Collector; for a power of appeal to the Board of Revenue of the district was given. Even in England there was power to impress into service, for the purposes of war, the horses and other animals of private individuals, and, therefore in that respect the people of India were not worse off—except in so far as war was of more frequent occurrence in India than the people of this country. The system of *corvée* in Egypt to which the noble Earl had referred, was not imposed for the purposes of war, but for the civil purpose of preventing the overflow of the Nile; and therefore the conditions were not the same. If it were found possible to obtain the necessary animals for transport in those Indian expeditions by hire, impressment was not resorted to. But it was asserted that the only arrangement the native understood was the system of compulsion; and he was, therefore, obliged to sacrifice himself on the altar of duty to his country, and to accept double rates of hire for so doing. Full provision was made for compensation in those cases, and every precaution was taken by the Government of India, to prevent any peculation in the payment of the natives for their services on the part of subordinate officials."

The Earl of Kimberley, an ex-Secretary of State for India, then jumped upon the unfortunate Under-Secretary. He pointed out that the speech had been delivered five weeks ago, and expressed his pained surprise that no steps had been taken by the Government to obtain the fullest information on the subject. It was one of the ordinary duties of the India Office, to study the newspapers of India; and he should have thought that when a statement of this very serious character, was made by a man whose position vouched for the truth, no time would have been lost in obtaining the fullest information.

Then Lord Lansdowne intervened, and cleverly tried to minimise the importance of it, by dealing entirely throughout his speech with the impressment of animals only, ignoring the men, which brought Lord Northbrook to his feet once more to protest that he referred far less to the impressment of animals than of men. He was quite sure no such power of impressment for transport service existed in this country in time of war. Lord Lansdowne retorted that it should not be assumed that these 25,000 men were compulsorily impressed. Most of them were probably hired with their animals. This pretence at knowledge, in the face of Lord Onslow's statement that the India Office had "no information," angered Lord Northbrook, who in his driest and most peppery tones retorted that the statement was not denied on the spot by those who were perfectly

competent to deny it, if it was not true, and he was very sorry to hear the noble Marquis trying to depreciate the great importance of this question. Lord Onslow having promised to draw the attention of the Secretary of State to the matter, the incident dropped. This little debate well illustrates the fashion in which the India Office is administered under the rule of Lord George Hamilton. Nobody can extract any information with regard to frontier administration, whether it be a colleague in the House of Lords like Lord Northbrook, or a quasi-colleague in the Commons like Sir Henry Fowler who has just been refused his Commission of Enquiry into Frontier operations.

## INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

The Committee upon Indian Accounts, which Lord George Hamilton promised to set up to enable members of the House to call attention to questions connected with Indian Administration was to have come on next Monday and had the whole sitting. It is, however, once more postponed, as usual, to the last day of the session, and will be taken on Thursday, the 11th inst. The Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill will be taken the same day. So there will be now too much time for discussion. The members of the Indian Parliamentary Committee, or rather the little handful of them, who care enough about India to sacrifice a holiday, have wisely decided to concentrate themselves upon Mr. Herbert Roberts' motion on the "sedition" policy of the Indian Government. He will be well supported by Sir William Wedderburn and Mr. Robert Lewis. The resolution declares that the recent changes in the sedition laws and press control is a departure from the traditional policy of the Indian Government, demands the immediate attention of Parliament, and ought at once to be repealed.

## INDIAN CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

The Indian Currency Committee has been sitting two days a week, since May 9, and has taken evidence from 24 different witnesses. It has adjourned over the summer months and will meet again in November. Meanwhile Sir Henry Fowler has decided to publish the evidence, which comprises about 9,000 questions, and it will be circulated to the public in a week or two. It will be a great help to future witnesses.

## INDIAN EXPENDITURE COMMISSION.

With regard to the Indian Expenditure Commission the stony silence of its Chairman, Lord Welby, continues, and no indication whatever is given by him as to whether or no the Commission will meet for the consideration of the Report during the life time of its youngest member. Lord Welby's conduct is without excuse, and the indignation of the Commissioners is very great at this unnecessary and most discourteous delay. The position of the Commission is altogether unprecedented. A number of important and influential political personages were appointed to enquire into and report upon the vast and all important subject of Indian Expenditure. These gentlemen have given 2 or 3 years to the inquiry, and are only anxious to give Parliament and the Indian Government the great advantage of possessing their report. All their efforts are paralysed, and they themselves are flouted, indeed insulted, by the complete failure of their Chairman to take any interest in it. Lord Welby might have been dead and buried for the last 12 months, so far as any evidence of his being alive, has come before any member of the Commission over which he has presided. The press has expressed the public indignation, Mr. Herbert Roberts and other members have put questions in the House, even Sir Henry Fowler has made public complaint, members of the Commission have written angry letters and threatened resignation, but all in vain. Lord Welby might be the stone Buddha in the Rangoon Pagoda, for any notice he deigns to take of all these representations. Even if Lord Welby now woke up, the Commission could not meet before November, and the matter at stake is too important for hasty and ill-considered discussion of the Chairman's belated report. There is no chance of any final report in time for use by the Indian Government in the preparation of the Budget of 1899-1900. If Lord Welby cannot or will not do his duty, he ought to resign the Chairmanship at once into the hands of Mr. Leonard Courtney or any of the half dozen other men who are fitter for the work than ever Lord Welby was or can hope to be. The *Scotsman* declared the other day, in a leader on Lord Welby's extraordinary conduct, that it would be impossible to find a parallel to it in all the annals of Royal Commissions. A body appointed with all the formality of Royal sanction, invested with great powers, and entrusted with a large issue is practically defunct, because its Chairman cannot be spurred by any means to give any sign whatever of vitality.

## BY-ELECTIONS.

There have been two by-elections since I last wrote. At Launceston, a division of the County of Cornwall, the late member was a good Liberal and polled in 1895 a majority of 653; at the by-elections caused by his death, which polled yesterday, Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Q. C. increased the majority to 1083, or 420 more than was polled at the General Election, thus keeping up the steady swing of the pendulum towards a Liberal return to power, which has been shown at all recent by-elections. Mr. Moulton is a distinguished lawyer and scholar, having carried off the blue ribbon at Cambridge as senior wrangler and gold medal for mathematics at London University. He sat for Clapham in the Home Rule Parliament, and as I was Chairman of his election committee, I know his views pretty well and can promise on his behalf that he will be a true and staunch friend in Parliament of the Indian people.

The election at Grimsby has no serious political portent. The sitting member, Mr. Doughty, was returned as Liberal at the General Election; but for some time past his liberal principles, never very robust, have been waning into Liberal Unionism, and latterly became so pronounced, that in common decency he had to resign his seat and seek re-election. There was a three-cornered fight between a Liberal, and independent Tory, and Mr. Doughty, who stood for re-election as a Liberal Unionist. He was returned again by a largely increased majority. Mr. Doughty was the largest employer of labour in Grimsby, and appears to have made a somewhat unscrupulous use of his

power and influence. There is no political significance to be attached to the result as the election of Mr. Doughty was the consequence of votes given for entirely other considerations. Open and lavish bribery appears to have been the order of the day, and the proceedings on the day of election suggest that the constituency was entirely debauched and ought to be disfranchised. If all that is reported be true, an election petition is likely to be instituted, with disfranchisement as a possible verdict.

## WELCOME TO MR. CHAMBERS.

A hundred or so of the leading friends of the Congress movement were entertained to breakfast this week at the invitation of Sir William Wedderburn, Mr. Hume and Mr. Naoroji to meet and welcome to this country Mr. W. A. Chambers, the Editor of the *Bombay Champion* Sir William Wedderburn presided. Mr. Chambers and Mrs. Chambers being seated on either side of him. Mr. Hume and Mr. Naoroji occupied the vice chairs. Unfortunately, most of the members of Parliament belonging to the Indian Parliamentary Committee have scattered for their holidays, and was only represented by cordial letters of apology. These were written by, and read from the chair Lord Kinnaird, Sir Wilfred Lawson, Sir Charles Dilke, Sir John Leng. Sir Joseph Pease, Messrs. Herbert Roberts, Herbert Lewis, Barrell, Burt, Cawley, Souttar, Schwann and Stewart, all members of Parliament; also from Sir William Hunter, Sir Richard Garth, Sir J. Pheare, Mr. Dutt C. I. E. and others.

Among these present were Mr. A. M. Bose, Messrs. Hopwood Q. C., W. S. Caine, Pickersgill M. P., Morgan Browne, Harold Spencer of the *Chronicle*, H. J. Wilson M. P., Dr. Clark M. P., Swift Macneil M. P., Dr. Murison and Martin Wood.

I have seldom listened to a more interesting and powerful speech than that delivered by Mr. Chambers. His clean cut sentences, well-arranged concise arguments, and deep sympathy with his subject, took the whole company by storm. He spoke for nearly an hour; and it will, I understand, be printed *verbatim* in *India*. Sir William did not spoil the effect of this brilliant speech by many words of his own, and the proceedings closed with a few appropriate words from Mr. Hume, Mr. Naoroji and Mr. Hopwood.

I understand Mr. Chambers will not return to Bombay before November, and I earnestly hope that other and wider opportunities for addressing the British public will be provided for him after the summer holidays by the British Congress Committee. Every one thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, and was grateful to Sir William Wedderburn for providing it.

## THE NEW BISHOP OF CALCUTTA.

The Queen has appointed Dr. Welldon, the popular Head Master of Harrow, to be Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan Bishop for India and Ceylon, in succession to Bishop Johnson. Dr. Welldon is a very brilliant man in the prime of life, being only 44 years of age; and much surprise is felt that he should care to give up the splendid position of the Head Mastership of one of our three greatest public schools, for such work as a Bishopric of Calcutta can afford. I suppose, however, that fifteen years of public school life is enough for most men, and Calcutta will make a convenient stepping stone to an English Bishopric later on. Meantime, I can heartily congratulate cultured India on the substitution of such a live capable man in their midst, in place of the reactionary ecclesiastic he replaces. Dr. Welldon will be no more Bishop. He is certain to make himself powerfully influential in the educational and intellectual life of India. His own record is very brilliant. The son himself of a great School Master, he obtained a scholarship at Eaton, and afterwards took a second scholarship at King's College, Cambridge, obtaining a Fellowship of the same College on taking his degree. He was Carn's prizeman, Browne's medalist, Bell Craven Scholar; Senior classic, and senior Chancellor's medalist, as brilliant a record as it is possible to make at Cambridge. At the early age of 29 he was appointed Head Master of Dalwich College, the greatest of all the London Schools, and promoted to Harrow three years after. In 1889 he served on the Royal Commission appointed to consider the scheme for the establishment of a teaching University for London. He is a man of broad and generous mind, wide sympathies, and great literary ability. It can bode nothing but good for India that such a man should occupy any conspicuous position in its administration, even that of Bishop. His energies are bound to overflow the limits of its duties and the educational and intellectual life of India will absorb it.

## THE HOOLEY'S EXAMINATION IN BANKRUPTCY.

As regards the directors, the chairman is Lord de la Warr. Did you make any payment to him for becoming a director of the company?

Witness (to the Registrar)—Am I obliged to answer that?

The Registrar—Yes, Mr. Hooley, I think you must.

Mr. Brougham—Did you pay anything to the chairman for coming on the board? Yes.

How much did you pay the chairman for coming on the Dunlops board?

Witness hesitated for a long time, and at length the Registrar said he must answer the question. He was doing it under compulsion.

Witness—What would be the next step if I did not.

The Registrar—The next step I am afraid would be in an uncomfortable direction. I sympathise with you.

Mr. Beyfus—It is a very delicate matter. Witness.—Twenty-five thousand pounds.

Mr. Brougham—Was that £25,000 paid to Lord de la Warr, alone, or was he to share it with any other director? I think I paid him £50,000, which was £25,000 to him and £25,000 between the others.

The Registrar—In cash or shares? In cash.

How was that £50,000 split up? The Duke of Somerset did not have any.

Did Lord Albemarle? I think he had £3,500. He ought to have had half, but I think he did not know what half was (laughter).

He did not know the actual amount that you paid? No.

The debtor said he had been offered £1,000 by Lord de la Warr if he would contradict the statement which he had made the last day, and say the money was received not for joining the Board, but was a present from

witness to him. He was understood to say that the money was deposited and was awaiting the conclusion of that day's examination.

The Registrar: It is a very scandalous thing.

The Official Receiver—Are there any other people who have approached you in the same way?—Yes. Some of the directors of the Humber Company. Two of them offered me £1,000, and one of them £2,000 if I said that the money they received £5,600 had nothing to do with the Humber Company, but with "deals" in other businesses.

The Registrar said he thought it necessary to caution the debtor to speak the truth and the whole truth. He must not refuse to answer any question.

The debtor said he would rather go to gaol for a month than answer these questions if he could help it. As for his discharge he did not want it.

The Official Receiver: Who were the directors who approached you?

The debtor: With regard to the Earl of Winchelsea, the first introduction I had to him was in regard to the Manufactures Tube Company. He agreed that he should go on the board, if everything was right, for £10,000, but he said he could not receive the money himself, and it should be paid over to his brother, the Hon. Harold Finch-Hutton. It was arranged that he should have a cheque for 2,000 made out in blank, nominally with reference to some syndicate. I gave the cheque, which was filled up here it is, signed by the Earl of Winchelsea. I did not know whose name was to be inserted in it, but it has been presented and cashed.

After the Earl had joined the board, Mr. Lawson suggested that he should be got on the board of the Horseless Carriage Company, and I agreed to give him £20,000. I also paid Mr. Lawson £3,000 for getting him on, and can prove that the Earl of Winchelsea received the £20,000. I don't want to say any more about the Earl of Winchelsea. (To his solicitor): Who's the next?—(Laughter.) Oh, Mr. Bayliss, who I see has disclaimed. I gave him a cheque for £4,000 in connection with the company to which I have referred. The cheque is here. It was through Bayliss, Cartland, Hincks, and Wiley. Another disclaimer is Sir E. Sullivan, but he is not my Sir E. Sullivan.—(Laughter.)

PAYMENTS TO MR. DRUCKER, M. P. AND TO JOURNALISTS.

Was anything paid to Mr. A. Drucker, M. P.—He had £2,500. He was supposed to take 10,000 shares for £7,500.

Was that for going on the board?—I do not think you could quite call it that. He wanted some shares at a discount.

You gave him some shares at a discount to go on the board?—Yes. He paid £7,500 and I gave him a cheque for £10,000.

Did Mr. W. H. Harris receive anything?—Nothing, and the others were not my directors.

Did Lloyds Bank receive anything? £1,500. The book says it was paid for commission, but I do not know what it was for.

Did they bring it up to allotment?—They found the clerks to go through the allotment. Other payments included two of £500. The solicitor did not receive anything from me, but there was £1,050 paid as a registration fee, and the auditors, Messrs. James and Edwards, receive a 200-guinea for being on the prospectus.

The Official Receiver.—Did you in this company have any underwriting at all?—No, but I sold shares at a discount.

Were any of these shares delivered, or were any of them bought back again?—I bought back Mr. Drucker's.

I notice an item to Mr. F. Andrew. Did Mr. Andrew oppose the sale of the Company?—Yes.

Did you make him any payment?—Yes. I believe it was £2,500 in cash and £2,500 in shares, the consideration being that he would withdraw his opposition to the sale.

The Registrar.—What was his position in the Company.—He was a shareholder.

The Official Receiver.—In addition to that Mr. J. I. Currie received £1,500 commission?—He was manager of the Boveril Company. I think I ought to say that both Mr. Walker, and Mr. Currie insisted they should keep their positions in the Company, and after I bought it I signed an agreement with Mr. Walker that he should be paid at the rate of £100 a year and Mr. Currie £250 a year.

What was this payment of £1,500 to Mr. Currie for?—I cannot tell you.

Have you any recollection of having any dealings with Mr. Currie over the Schweppe transaction?

The debtor said he had not, but he thought it was for an introduction for the purchase of shares. The debtor further said the item of a payment to Mr. Burroughs was on account of printing the prospectus.

There are two payments to J. B. Baker of 250 each? Yes.

Who is he?—He was the City editor of the "Pall Mall Gazette."

What were they for?—To keep him quiet.—(Laughter.) There is 300 for Mr. E. Coward. What did he do?—He did something for it.—(Laughter.)

Who is Mr. Coward? A friend of mine.—(Laughter.)

What is he? He is the owner of the "Rialto," a newspaper.

Was it made in respect of the newspaper? No.

Did the paper deal with companies?—Yes, but it did not deal with this Company. Mr. Coward would not write against any company of mine whether he got paid or not. I do not think the payment related to Schweppe's Company. Every time I brought out a company Mr. Coward had something out of me.—(Laughter.)

What was the cheque for £3,000 paid for in respect to Schweppe's Company? I would rather not answer that.

Pressed to answer the question, the debtor said he gave in to Mr. Duguid who was editor of the "Pall Mall Gazette" to leave that paper, as he was "always on him."

He gave the "Financial News" 100 guineas each for the reports of meetings which appeared.

DURING the past official year trade between Tibet and the North-Western Provinces was very brisk.

A LONG resolution on Survey operations for the past year appears in the *India Gazette*. One hundred and four thousand square miles were surveyed against 63,000 in the previous year owing to a large amount of reconnaissance completed in Upper Burma.

## INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, August 4.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.—Mr. A. Balfour informed Mr. H. Roberts that the Indian Budget would be brought forward "on the Committee stage of the Appropriation Bill," which, as far as he could calculate, would be taken next Thursday, Aug. 11.

Mr. A. M. Broadley.—Mr. Duncombe asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to the allegation that certain payments have been made in this country by a Mr. Hooley to one A. M. Broadley with a view to influencing a section of the Press; whether this person was the same A. M. Broadley against whom a warrant was issued some years ago in India on a charge of committing a criminal offence; whether such warrant runs in England; if so, why the warrant had never been executed; and what steps, if any, he proposed to take to vindicate the law of the land.

Sir M. W. Ridley: I am afraid I have no information on his subject. A warrant of arrest issued in India for an offence committed within the Fugitive Offenders Act will run in England if endorsed in the manner provided by the Act, but it does not necessarily come under my notice before being executed.

THE NAWAB OF DIR.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Nawab of Dir, who was waging war against the Bajauri tribes, was related to Umra Khan, against whom a British force was sent in 1895; whether the original arrangement as to subsidies made in 1895 between the Indian Government and the Nawab was upon the basis of annual payments to him of 60,000 rs. on account of levies and of 10,000 rs. for tolls on the road to Chitral; whether these annual payments had subsequently been increased, and whether he could state what they amounted to at present; and, in reference to the present hostilities, whether he would state whether the Political Department was cognisant of the Nawab's recent proceedings, and whether the Political Agent at Chakdara, on the Chitral road, had information of this chief's preparations to attack the Bajauris.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am not aware of any relationship between the Nawab of Dir and Umra Khan, against whose brothers and cousins the Nawab's recent expedition was conducted. The original arrangement mentioned in the second question was upon the basis described, and the annual payments have not been increased. The answer to the two inquiries made in the last paragraph of the question is in the affirmative. The Political Agent did his utmost to discourage the participation of the Nawab in the Bajauri quarrel.

INDIAN FORCES BEYOND SEAS.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will lay before Parliament a statement showing what regiments and detachments of the Indian Army are now employed in Africa or elsewhere outside her Majesty's Indian possessions, also what Indian forces are now stationed beyond the borders of India in Waziristan, in the Zhoob Valley, at Lundi Kotal, and in the garrisons along the road to Chitral; and whether he will include in such a return copies of the references to the orders under which such employment of troops belonging to the military establishments of British India has been sanctioned, together with specific information as to the funds from which the charges of such troops are defrayed.

Lord G. Hamilton: The only Indian forces now employed in Africa or elsewhere beyond seas are as follows:—In Africa the 27th Bombay Infantry, and a wing of the 4th Bombay Infantry; in Mauritius, the 1st Bengal Infantry. The cost of these troops is entirely defrayed from non-Indian revenues. As regards the strength of the forces now stationed in Waziristan, in the Zhoob Valley, at Lundi Kotal, and along the Chitral road, I am not prepared to give a return in detail, but it may perhaps be sufficient for the hon. member's purpose to know that the troops which are stationed in those places are paid for from Indian revenues; and that they are so employed under orders from the Government of India, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India in Council.

EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS IN INDIA.—Sir William Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India: Native Indians being and having always been eligible for appointments to the superior educational service of India, will he state the number of applications for such appointments received from native Indians since the appointment of Mr. P. Mukerjee in 1881, and give the names of the applicants and the result of their applications; and has any single native been appointed to one of these posts since Mr. P. Mukerjee was appointed in 1881.

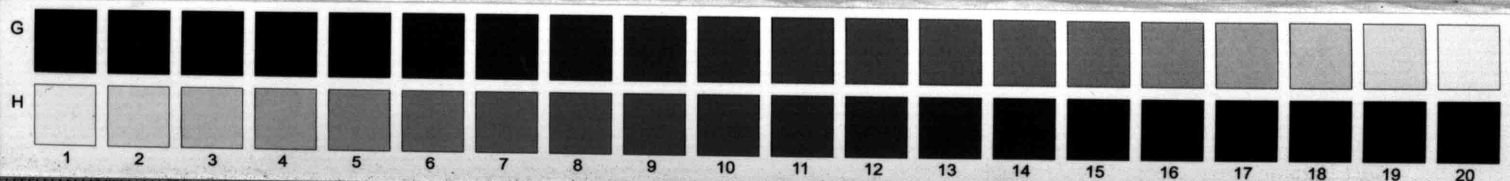
Lord G. Hamilton: No record has been kept of applications for educational appointments, whether by natives of India or others, such matters having been treated as personal by each successive Secretary of State. I am, therefore, unable to give the information asked for in the first part of this question. As regards the second part of it, I cannot say how many natives have been appointed since 1881, but the number is not large.

SIR ARTHUR HAVELOK has returned to Ootacamund. He will again go on tour, on return from the Nilgiris, to the Kistna, Nellore, and Kurnool Districts.

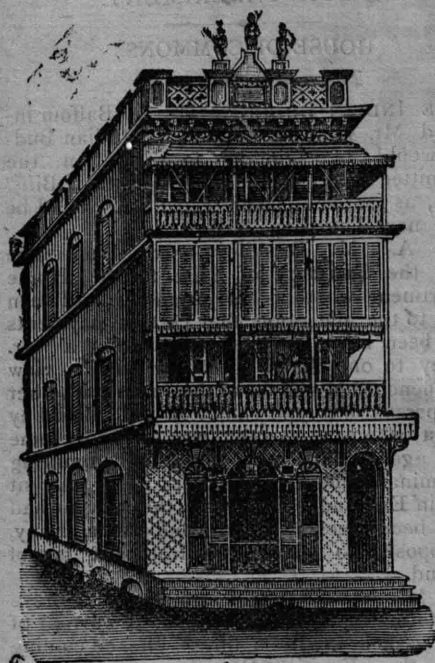
It is now practically settled to have an octroi clearing house in Simla for goods brought into the station by the cart road.

His Excellency the Viceroy acknowledges the assistance, so readily given by the main contractors, Messrs. Dhanjiboy and Son, in establishing and maintaining in a high state of efficiency several mail services which they undertook in connection with the frontier operations. Among the officers mentioned, the following Indian names occur: Lala Madan Gopal, Munshi Muhammad Hayat, Cama, and Bhagwandas.

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